

(iv) **re: Strike by the President of the B.B.C. Aluminium factory works in Belgaum.**

Sri P. B. NANDIHALI.—I call the attention of the Minister for Law, Labour and Parliamentary Affairs to the hunger strike by Shri Ram Apte, the President of the Workers Union of B.B.C. (Aluminium factory), Belgaum.

Sri K. PUTTASWAMY (Minister for Law Labour and Parliamentary Affairs).—The Hon. Member has given Notice to call my attention to the hunger strike by Shri Ram Apte, the President of the Workers Union of B. B. C. Company Private Limited (Aluminium Factory) Belgaum along with other workers.

Messrs. Bengal Bihar Construction Co., (P) Ltd., having their Headquarters at Calcutta have undertaken the Plant Fabrication work of M/s. Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd., Belgaum. The work is going on since the middle of 1967 and is likely to be completed within the next 2—3 months. They are getting the work done through 8 sub-contractors and there are about 500 to 600 workers.

The President of the Engineering Foundry Kamgar Sangha, Belgaum, sent a charter of demands on 5th December 1969 to M/s Bengal Bihar Construction Co., Pvt. Ltd., and to the 8 Sub-contractors demanding increase in wages, bonus, festival holidays, leave with wages etc. Since there was no response from the employers the workmen numbering about 150 went on strike with effect from 24th December 1969. Shri Ram Apte, President of the Union started hunger strike before the residence of Shri K. K. Das Gupta, Project Manager of Indian Aluminium Co., Ltd., Belgaum. Some batches of striking workers were also made to resort to hunger strike.

Though the Union and the workers resorted to direct action without evolving the conciliation machinery, nevertheless the Conciliation Officer took up the dispute for conciliation. On 24th January 1970 a draft Settlement as suggested by the Deputy Labour Commissioner, Belgaum Division was agreed to both by the management and the workers. However, at the time of signing the Agreement the management raised objections for signing the Agreement by the two workers authorised by the President of the Engineering and Foundry Kamgar Sangha. The employers stated that they would have no objection to sign the Settlement with the five representatives duly elected by their workmen, as the Union had no locus standi and its representative character was doubtful.

The Conciliation Officer continued his efforts for getting the settlement signed both by the management and the workers. As per the telephonic message received on 31st January 1970, the dispute has been settled amicably and Shri Ram Apte has called off hunger strike. Now the Labour situation at Belgaum is peaceful.

Sri P. B. NANDIHALI.—It is stated that the dispute has been settled amicably and Sri Apte has called off the hunger strike. It is learnt that criminal cases have been filed against the workers. Now that the strike is amicably settled, may I request the Government to withdraw all cases against the workers?

Sri K. PUTTASWAMY.—I do not know what the cases are and what offences were committed and what cases have been filed. As far as that matter is concerned, I think the Government will have to allow the law to take its own course.

(vi) *re*: Collection of Land Revenue at new rates in Tarikere

Sri HANJI SHIVANNA.—I call the attention of the Minister for Revenue to the collection of Land Revenue at new rates in Tarikere Taluk by coercive methods.

Sri H. V. KOUJALGI.—I am sorry. I request this may be taken up tomorrow.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER.—Sri Arakeri to raise half an hour discussion.

Half-an-hour Discussion arising out of Replies given to Starred Question

No. 524 *re*: formation of sites by the C.I.T.B. in the Rajamahall Extension.

Sri S. S. ARAKERI.—I raise a half an hour discussion on the points arising out of answers to starred question No. 165 (524) of Eleventh list regarding formation of sites by the City Improvement Trust Board on the land at Rajamahall Extension donated to late Dr. Ambedkar by the ex-Maharaja of Mysore.

I request Sri Siddaveerappa to speak on my behalf.

Sri K. PUTTASWAMY.—I have absolutely no objection. But according to rules Sri Arakeri has to speak and the hon. member Sri Siddaveerappa may obtain certain clarifications.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—I want your ruling. The Hon. Minister says I cannot do it. I am under the impression that although I am not one of the signatories I can speak?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER.—It is mentioned as Sri Arakeri and 22 others. I thought the hon Member is also one of the signatories. So he can speak. Any way this will not become a precedent.